WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fastening device for a seat belt comprising:

a belt-force-limiting element which limits a retaining force acting on a person protected by the seat belt by enabling the seat belt to yield to a predetermined extent;

wherein the belt-force-limiting element comprises a wire-unwinding device from which a wire can be pulled by an exertion of a predetermined tensile force, and wherein one end of the seat belt is connected indirectly or directly to the wire so that the wire is pulled out of the wire-unwinding device when the retaining force exerted by the seat belt on the occupant reaches the predetermined tensile force.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the fastening device is configured so that the wire bends during withdrawal from the unwinding device.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein the wire is bent by a deflecting roller.

4. The device of claim 2, wherein the wire is bent by a deflecting rod.

5. The device of claim 1, further comprising: a belt-retracting device with a spindle which retracts and unrolls the belt and interacts indirectly or directly with the wire of the wire-unwinding device.

6. The device of claim 5, further comprising a ratchet ring which can be connected in a rotationally fixed manner via a pawl to the spindle; wherein the ratchet ring includes a wire magazine on which the wire pulled out of the wire-unwinding device is coiled round.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the wire-unwinding device comprises a switching rocker for guiding the wire; and wherein the switching rocker includes first and second positions, wherein the first position of the switching rocker results in a different tensile force for pulling out the wire than the second position.

8. The device of claim 7, wherein the fastening device is configured so that the wire is deflected during withdrawal from the unwinding device when the switching rocker is in the first position.

9. The device of claim 7, wherein the switching rocker is switched over from the first position into the second position pyrotechnically.

10. The device of claim 7, wherein the switching rocker is switched from the first position into the second position with an electromagnet.

11. The device of claim 7, wherein the switching rocker is configured to deform during the transfer from the first position into the second position.

12. A seat belt system comprising:

a seat belt retractor; and

a wire-unwinding device including a deflecting roller, a wire reel; and a wire magazine;

wherein the wire-unwinding device is configured to act on the belt retractor to limit a retaining force acting on an occupant protected by the seat belt system.

13. The device of claim 12, further comprising a wire configured to be dispensed from the reel when a predetermined tensile force is applied to the wire.